Dear member of the Board:

Welcome to our University! The Living Wage Campaign at U.Va. knows that you are committed to making the University a better place. President Sullivan has told us that she wants to create a ‘caring community,’ but over 800 employees of our school do not make enough money at their jobs to make ends meet. Throughout Charlottesville, across U.Va., and indeed throughout the country, people are recognizing that all employees deserve decent wages.

As a member of the University Board of Visitors, you have a unique position in our community to make a massive step forward in addressing the racial, economic, and social divides in Charlottesville. In fact, we believe that it is your duty to make budget decisions that uphold the common good. The dire situation of hundreds of hard-working employees at U.Va. undermines the strength of our community and compromises the mission of our University as an institution of integrity.

What can you do today? Below are several suggestions that you can bring up today in the finance subcommittee. During your prior February meeting, hundreds of students, Charlottesville residents, and faculty marched around the Rotunda in support of a living wage. We produced detailed information packets, including the exhaustive research document "Keeping our Promises," as well as the Charlottesville City Council resolution calling for the University to institute a living wage. We know that you have all the information you need about the issue of a living wage in Charlottesville. Yet it seems that the Board has not taken notice thus far.

We urge you to take heed of the groundswell of public support for a living wage at U.Va. We would love to share more about the Campaign, talk about the issues facing workers, and how we can all work together to make this a community of trust, care, and respect for all our members. We await your response.

Sincerely,

The Living Wage Campaign at U.Va.
livingwageatuva@gmail.com

What can you do to support Charlottesville?

- Allocate money to raise the base hourly rate for employees to $12.01/hr. By our calculations, offering a living wage to University employees would cost less than a tenth of a percent of our annual budget.
- Commit to regularly increase this wage to correspond with the rising cost of living in Charlottesville.
- Cancel contracts with vendors that do not uphold these same wage standards. Demand that future contractors uphold these same standards.